

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04268 270937Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 OMB-01 /078 W
-----088142 280502Z /20
R 261055Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1879
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4268

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF
SUBJECT: VENDA ELECTIONS

REFS: A) JOHANNESBURG A-67, B) PRETORIA 2534

1. SUMMARY: WHILE THE OPPOSITION PARTY HAS APPARENTLY SWEEPED THE RECENT ELECTION IN VENDALAND, ITS PROSPECTS FOR CONTROLLING THE ASSEMBLY ARE AT THIS POINT UNCERTAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. VENDA OPPOSITION LEADER BALDWIN MUDAU TOLD EMBOFF JULY 21 THAT HIS VENDA INDEPENDENCE PARTY (VIP) HAS WON 31 OF 42 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SEATS CONTESTED IN THE JULY 5-6 ELECTION. ELECTION RESULTS WILL NOT BE OFFICIALLY PROMULGATED UNTIL AUGUST. A LENGTHY DELAY IN PUBLISHING ELECTION RESULTS HAS BEEN THE NORM AFTER PAST HOMELAND ELECTIONS. MUDAU STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE REASON FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DELAY IN REPORTING THE RESULTS IS DUE TO THE RULING VENDA NATIONAL PARTY'S (VNP) HOPE TO MANIPULATE THE RESULTS TO BEST ADVANTAGE. MUDAU SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CAPTURING 12 OF THE 42 APPOINTED SEATS (RESERVED FOR CHIEFS AND HEADMEN) HE WILL NEED TO CONTROL THE ASSEMBLY. HE HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING IN VENDALAND TO ATTEMPT TO SECURE THE LOYALTY OF SOME OF THE CHIEFS AND HEADMEN BUT SAYS IT IS A DIFFICULT TASK BECAUSE "MPHEPHU'S NATIONAL PARTY IS PAYING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRETOR 04268 270937Z

THEM OFF."

3. JULY 22 PRESS REPORTS ALLEGED THAT CHIEF MINISTER PATRICK MPHEPHU HAS ALREADY BEGUN AN EFFORT TO NEGATE THE VIP ELECTION VICTORY BY NOMINATING DEFEATED VNP CANDIDATES TO THE APPOINTED ASSEMBLY SEATS. VIP LEADER MUDAU IS REPORTEDLY INITIATING LEGAL ACTION TO PREVENT DEFEATED CANDIDATES FROM FILLING APPOINTED

SEATS. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO SAY THAT MADAU HAS CAUSED THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO WARN CHIEF MPHEPHU AGAINST USING MONETARY INDUCEMENTS OR INTIMIDATION IN SEEKING THE SUPPORT OF APPOINTED CHIEFS AND HEADMEN.

4. IN AN INTERVIEW JULY 23, MUDAU TOLD THE POST THAT IF HIS PARTY CONTROLS THE ASSEMBLY, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT HE WILL SERVE AS CHIEF MINISTER. VENDA'S CONSTITUTION STIPULATES THAT ONLY A CHIEF MAY BE CHIEF MINISTER; HOWEVER, MUDAU STATED THAT HIS PARTY WILL SUPPORT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW HIM AS A COMMONER TO SERVE IN THE POSITION.

5. COMMENT: THE LANDSLIDE SWEEP OF ELECTED SEATS BY MUDAU'S INDEPENDENCE PARTY IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE ELECTIONS IN TRANSKEI AND BOPHUTHATSWANA WHERE THE RULING PARTIES DECIMATED THE OPPOSITION. THE IRONY OF THE SITUATION, THOUGH, IS THAT WHILE MUDAU'S PARTY OPPOSES INDEPENDENCE, IT DID NOT CAMPAIGN ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE, AS REPORTED IN REF A, INDEPENDENCE IS POPULAR IN VANDALAND. VICTORY BY THE OPPOSITION PARTY THEN COULD BE SEEN AS A POPULAR REJECTION OF MPHEPHU, ONE OF THE MOST INCOMPETENT OF HOMELAND LEADERS. THE PROSPECT OF THE VIP CONTROLLING THE ASSEMBLY AND APPOINTING MUDAU AS CHIEF MINISTER WILL ALSO PROVIDE A DILEMMA FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, AS VENDA WAS EXPECTED TO BE THE NEXT HOMELAND TO GAIN INDEPENDENCE (PRETORIA 2534).

EDMONDSON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04268 270937Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780309-0561
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780718/aaaaaphv.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07fb576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JOHANNESBURG A-67, 78 PRETORIA 2534
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1879962
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENDA ELECTIONS
TAGS: PDEV, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/07fb576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014